UNITED
NATIONS

DP

Governing Council
of the
United Nations
Development Programme

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/CP/DOM/NOTE/5
28 March 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-ninth session
Geneva, 4-29 May 1992
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME PLANNING

Country and intercountry programmes and projects

FIFTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Note by the Administrator

I. PROGRAMMING PROCESS

1. Under the fifth country programme for the Dominican Republic is the culmination of a process that began formally with the presentation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) advisory note for the Dominican Republic. The note itself was the product of a process of review and dialogue which took place during the fourth cycle, especially during its second half, with the national authorities of the Dominican Republic and the relevant bilateral and multilateral entities involved in technical assistance in the country. The consultations carried out were rigourous and detailed, leading to the preparation of the country programme document.

II. ANALYTICAL COMMENTARY ON THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

2. The Country Programme submitted is derived directly from clearly defined national priorities and the firmly founded Government commitment to utilize fully the technical assistance available to the Dominican Republic for achieving its developmental objectives. In this context it is significant that the fifth country programme furthers the economic, financial and social programmes begun by the Government in 1988. It was within the framework of the fourth country programme that UNDP began to assist the Government, first, in an analysis of the economic situation and then, in late 1988, in the

formulation of reform strategies in certain key sectors including fiscal and tariff reform, financial system reform, reactivation of the productive sector, development of an environmental forestry plan, and educational reform. UNDP inputs contributed significantly to paving the way for successful negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which in turn were imperative for boosting the confidence of other multi- and bilateral donors in the Government's structural adjustment programme.

3. The circumstances and the catalytic role of UNDP during the commencement of the economic and social recovery have proved to be effective and to have reinforced the comparative advantages of UNDP: adaptability, continuous dialogue with the Government at all levels, a multisectoral mandate and access to all development agents and sectors of society. In the Dominican Republic UNDP has played a catalytic role and one recognized as such by the Government. Adoption of the programme approach including national execution has contributed to the process.

4. Building on these comparative advantages and in accordance with Governing Council decision 90/34, the fifth country programme focuses on four areas of concentration, each of which is divided into programmes which are multisectoral in scope and serve a single larger objective. These areas of concentration are: public sector reform and management; productive sector reform and reactivation; human resources and social development; and natural resources and the environment. Each area adresses a development problem; the concept of human development furnishes the overriding theme. As such, programme activities will stress processes entailing decentralization, grassroots participation, education, betterment of social conditions, gender equality and ownership issues such as administrative simplification and development of small/medium scale enterprises.

5. In supporting the programme approach, the role of UNDP will be to assist the Government in the formulation of strategies and programmes which will result in a system of modules comprising three "generations" of projects for each concentration area. The first generation consists of one or two projects which analyse the situation at the national level and identify specific problems to be addressed. On the basis of the results, the second generation of projects focuses on policy formulation and legal framework. This then leads to a third generation of projects which address the implementation and administration of policies and reforms. Programmes within each strategic area will be presented to the international multilateral and bilateral institutions for funding. Within this framework, indicative planning figure (IPF) funds are to be utilized as catalysts and seed money for programme and strategy determination, resource mobilization, monitoring and evaluation.

6. The country programme outlines criteria for impact assessment, while recognizing the need for further refinement, specificity and quantification of indicators of the impact on each broad area of concentration as well as on each programme within it.

III. MANAGEMENT OF COUNTRY PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

7. The experience of the Dominican Republic in the fourth country programme clearly indicates that national execution is a viable operational modality. The programmes proposed for the fifth country programme therefore involve ownership, responsibility and management by national institutions with external cooperation being provided, where necessary, in programme and strategy determination, in technical areas where capacity is lacking and needs to be strengthened, and in resource mobilization.

8. Within the specific programmes coordinating units will be utilized, as appropriate, to serve as instruments to mobilize, coordinate and integrate inputs from donors. National execution will be the principal form of implementation and will be supported by inputs from the specialized agencies and other technical entities in accordance with perceived need.

9. Monitoring, annual reviews of benchmarks and evaluation of impact will be conducted as envisaged in the programme modality. The country programme will undergo a mid-term review in 1994.

IV. RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

10. The observations made in the present note reflect the Administrator's belief that the fifth country programme for the Dominican Republic is relevant to the development of the country, is in line with Governing Council decisions and is based on a set of substantively sound and financially feasible objectives.

11. The Administrator therefore recommends that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for the Dominican Republic.